99TH CONGRESS
1st Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT
99-406

CONGRATULATING SHARON CHRISTA McAULIFFE ON HER SELECTION AS THE FIRST TEACHER IN SPACE

DECEMBER 2, 1985.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

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Mr. FUQUA, from the Committee on Science and Technology, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 231]

The Committee on Science and Technology, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 231) expressing the sense of the Congress that Sharon Christa McAuliffe be congratulated on her outstanding achievement on being selected as the first "teacher in space," that the President and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration be commended on their foresight and wisdom in recognizing the importance of education to our future in outer space, and that the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration be directed to encourage Sharon Christa McAuliffe to conduct the world's first lesson from outer space, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the concurrent resolution as amended do pass.

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	Explanation and purpose of the Concurrent Resolution	2
II.	Background	2
III.	Committee actions	2
IV.	Cost and budget data	2
V.	Committee oversight findings and recommendations	3
VI.	Government Operations Committee findings and recommendations	3
VII.	Committee recommendation	3

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2 strike lines 10 through 15 and insert:

(3) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Sharon Christa McAuliffe are to be commended for their efforts to facilitate and conduct

H703-16

the world's first lesson from outer space for the benefit of all humanity.

I. EXPLANATION AND PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The concurrent resolution congratulates Sharon Christa McAuliffe on her selection as the first "teacher in space" and commends the President and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on their foresight and wisdom in recognizing the importance of education to our future in outer space through her selection to fly on the space shuttle. The resolution also commends the Administrator of NASA and Sharon Christa McAuliffe for their efforts to facilitate and conduct the world's first lesson from outer space. It is necessary to enact this resolution so that Astronaut McAuliffe can be commemorated in a timely manner before her January 22, 1986, scheduled flight.

II. BACKGROUND

In August 1984, the President directed the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to select a teacher to be the first private citizen to be launched into space aboard the space shuttle. After reviewing more than 10,000 applications from teachers all across the Nation, NASA narrowed the competition down to 10 finalists from America's elementary and secondary schools. After conducting rigorous medical examinations and numerous evaluations to determine the candidates' overall suitability for space flight, NASA chose Sharon Christa McAuliffe, a social studies teacher from Concord High School, Concord, NH.

Throughout her training and scheduled launch January 22, 1986, Astronaut McAuliffe plans to compile a personal journal to attempt to humanize the space age. Her journal will be a trilogy which begins at the point of selection and training as the first teacher in space, the actual flight, and personal thoughts and reflections upon her return.

She is also preparing lesson plans and will teach two lessons from space.

McAuliffe's position on the space shuttle will be that of an observer/technician.

III. COMMITTEE ACTIONS

House Concurrent Resolution 231 was introduced by Mr. Gregg (New Hampshire) and five original cosponsors on November 7, 1985. On November 21, 1985, the concurrent resolution was considered by the full Committee on Science and Technology and ordered reported, as amended, by voice vote, a quorum being present.

IV. COST AND BUDGET DATA

No estimates pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are necessary since there is no budgetary impact from this resolution.

V. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to rule XI, clause 2(l)(3) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and under the authority of rule X, clause 2(b)(1) and clause 3(f), no findings and recommendations are under consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology on the commemoration of the teacher-astronaut Sharon Christa McAuliffe.

VI. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No findings and recommendations on oversight activity pursuant to rule X, clause 2(b)(2), and rule XI, clause 2(l)(3), of the Rules of the House of Representatives, have been submitted by the Committee on Government Operations for inclusion in this report.

VII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

A quorum being present, the committee ordered reported favorably the concurrent resolution, as amended, by a voice vote.

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